

September 6, 2012

Editor: Diane Brinson

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DNR extends wolf hunting license application deadline to September 7

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Judge's decision and application deadline fell on same day

The final day for prospective hunters to purchase a wolf application had been scheduled for August 31, the same day Dane County Circuit Judge Peter C. Anderson issued a partial injunction involving the use of dogs for Wisconsin's wolf season. Believing that some individuals may have decided to wait for the ruling before purchasing a wolf application, and knowing the importance of getting a preference point in this initial season, the department extended the application deadline to Friday, September 7.

The full season runs from October 15 through February 28, 2013.

"Since the judge's ruling and the original application deadline happened to fall on the same day, August 31, folks wouldn't have much time to react if they did in fact want to apply for a permit. This extension gives them some breathing room to do that," said **Kurt Thiede**, administrator of the Division of Land.

There were initial questions about whether the wolf hunt could proceed as planned in light of the partial injunction. After reviewing the order, it has been determined that the wolf

season will proceed as planned, though the use of dogs for hunting and training is temporarily on hold.

“We’ve heard from hunters, trappers and conservation organizations that the uncertainty about whether or not there would be a wolf hunting and trapping season this year as a result of this lawsuit has caused some potential applicants to adopt a wait and see position,” said Thiede.

“With clarity on the ruling, and the application extension, we encourage interested hunters and trappers to purchase a wolf application, which will earn them a preference point for future hunts even if they are not chosen in this year’s lottery.”

The department will issue 1,160 wolf harvest licenses through a drawing that will take place shortly after the close of the permit application period. A permit application costs \$10 and can be purchased through any license vendor, [online](#), by phone toll free at 1-877-945-4236, or at a DNR Service Center.

Go to the [“Wolf hunting and trapping”](#) webpage for more information on the season and regulations.

DNR will notify by mail those people selected in the drawing. Those not selected will receive one preference point toward future drawings. Applicants selected in the drawing can then purchase a wolf harvest license for \$100 for residents and \$500 for nonresidents.

Learn more about the recent judicial ruling

Judge Anderson’s [ruling](#) temporarily prevents or enjoins using dogs for hunting wolves, and also training dogs to hunt wolves. As a result of this ruling, hunters are advised that the use of dogs for tracking and trailing wolves is currently not allowed when hunting wolves under a wolf harvesting license. Also, training dogs to track or trail free ranging wolves isn’t authorized at this time. As this is a temporary injunction, the injunction on the use of dogs for wolf hunting and training could be lifted at a future date. The department will issue any updates or changes later this fall.



Achieving new goals with first Lean Government Initiative

By: Kristy Rogers, Office of the Secretary

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The results are in and our first Lean Government Initiative is a success!

On August 9, the team leaders and members behind DNR’s first Lean Government Initiative celebrated their success at Olbrich Gardens in Madison. Since the April 19 “Digest” story [“A lean DNR: Getting better all the time.”](#) described the initiative, department employees from around the state have been working hard applying the “Lean Six Sigma” approach to improve specific processes.



The members of the Endangered Resources Review Project Team: (L-R) Secretary Cathy Stepp, Drew Feldkirchner, Lori Steckervetz, Lisie Kitchel, Rori Paloski, Stacy Rowe, Brittany Peitrantonio-Davis, Mia Van Horn and Erin Crain. DNR Photo

At the Madison celebration, team leaders received gold medals in honor of the Olympics, and all participants received a DNR water bottle as a token of appreciation.

The department set out to test the Lean Six Sigma tools by conducting and evaluating at least one process improvement project in each DNR division. Nine of the ten projects now have been completed, all of them successfully recommending improvements that meet the following five agency-wide goals:

- reduce DNR staff workload;
- reduce lead (delivery) time, the time it takes for a customer to receive a product or service;
- improve customer satisfaction;
- simplify the process;
- ensure staff and customer safety.

Here's a summary of a few of the Lean Government Initiative projects:



The Air Construction Permits Project Team is comprised of: (L-R) Cathy Stepp, Andy Stewart, Peggy Hoene, Dave Minkey, Steve Dunn, Jeff Johnson and John Hammen (now retired). DNR Photo

- **Clean Boats Clean Waters Project:** Led by Grant Manager **Jane Malischke**, Bureau of Community Financial Assistance, and Water Quality Specialist **Pam Toshner**, in the Northern Region, staff eliminated wasteful steps in the grant application process, and reduced the time it

takes to get an answer to the grantee from 90 business days to 14 business days.

- **LeMay Forestry Center:** Led by Center Superintendent **Mike Lehman** and Forestry Business Specialist **Su DaWalt**, in Tomahawk, forestry staff at the center redesigned their stockroom to make filling orders more efficient, and reduced the steps (literally) taken to fill an order from 1,583 feet to 319 feet, a reduction of 79 percent.
- **Wild Game Serving Permit Process:** Led by Warden Supervisor **Dave Holmes**, Poynette, staff reduced the time needed to secure a permit from weeks to hours. Dale Maas, a customer of the recently improved permit process, shared his feedback with DNR staff: "This new process is great! Those of us that have dealt with the old one appreciate the change."

Team leaders and members completed surveys at the end of their projects as part of the evaluation of this initiative. Here are a few of the highlights:

- **The projects are having a positive impact.** One hundred percent of team leaders and 90 percent of team members were very or somewhat confident that their projects would have a lasting and positive impact on the process.
- **The projects were fun...or at least enjoyable.** One hundred percent of the team leaders and 95 percent of the team members very much or somewhat enjoyed working on the project.
- **We need more time to do the projects.** Fifty-five percent of the team leaders and 35 percent of the team members felt the timeline to complete their project was too short.



Project Team Leaders and Secretary's Office gathered for this shot: (L-R sitting) Dave Holmes, Jane Malischke, Kristy Rogers, Darsi Foss. (L-R standing) Andrew Craig, Pamela Toshner, Su DaWalt, Mike Lehman, Scott Gunderson, Cathy Stepp, Matt Moroney, Quinn Williams, Erin Crain, John Hammen. DNR Photo

We learned a tremendous amount from this first initiative and plan to expand our use of these tools. The Secretary's Office appointed me, a long-time DNR employee and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, to lead the agency's process improvement efforts full time. I obtained my Black Belt certification from the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in 2008.

If you're interested in learning more about Lean Government and/or have ideas for process improvement projects, stay tuned. We will be soliciting ideas and providing training opportunities in the near future. To read more about the first projects and results, go to "[DNR's Lean Government Initiative](#)" webpage. From the department's [Internet homepage](#), do a keyword search on "Lean Gov." We're currently rebuilding the Lean Government Intranet page, which will be available soon.

If you have questions about DNR's Lean Government Initiative, email me at [Kristy Rogers](#) or

call me at 608-261-4383.

Footnote: *Kristy Rogers is the department's director of Process Improvement.*



Historic land protection effort secures forest, water quality and public access

By: The Conservation Fund news release

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Public-private partnership ends first phase of largest recreational and timberland conservation project in state's history

Wisconsin residents secured an extraordinary conservation jewel in northwest Wisconsin thanks to a unique partnership among the DNR, The [Lyme Timber Company](#) and [The Conservation Fund](#), with financial assistance from Enbridge and the McKnight Foundation. The broad-based group closed on a deal on August 31 to protect 44,618 acres of the Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest under a working forest conservation easement. A second phase of more than 22,000 acres is slated to close in 2014 to create the largest conservation project in Wisconsin history.

The Lyme St. Croix Forest Company owns and manages the land, now covered by a working forest easement that will ensure public recreational access to 39 miles of hiking, biking, skiing, snowmobile and ATV trails, including a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail. The conserved acreage features wildlife habitat for many game and non-game species including sharp-tailed grouse, white-tailed deer, black bear, woodcock and numerous migratory songbirds.

In addition, nearly 13.2 miles of streams and approximately 75 small lakes and ponds will be preserved. These bodies of water are located within the headwaters of the St. Croix and Bois Brule rivers, which serve as sources of drinking water to many nearby towns. Under the easement, vast stretches of sustainably-managed forestland will help filter and clean the waterways while providing a steady flow of wood products to local mills.



This logging road off of S. Miles Lake Road in Douglas County is lined by red pine plantation forest and sandy soils characteristic of the easement. DNR Photo

"This purchase provides much needed recreational access for the public to hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, skiing, bird-watching, and ATV and snowmobile trails," said DNR Secretary

Cathy Stepp. "It keeps the land in private ownership, generating property taxes and helping keep Wisconsin's forestry industry strong. It's a win-win for everybody and helps preserve the celebrated forested character of the north."

The collaboration between the public and private sectors to secure a working forest easement guarantees the sustainable stewardship of the forestland keeps the property in private ownership and on the tax rolls, supports local jobs and provides outdoor enjoyment.

As a lead private partner of The Conservation Fund, and one of the largest employers in northwest Wisconsin, Enbridge provided financial support to help the fund secure the opportunity for the state to purchase the easement. This effort by Enbridge is part of an ongoing commitment through the [Enbridge Neutral Footprint Fund](#) to conserve significant forest, wetland and native prairie habitats.

"Thanks to the leadership of the Wisconsin DNR and the support and commitment of The Lyme Timber Company, Enbridge through its Neutral Footprint Fund, the McKnight Foundation and other foundation partners we are permanently protecting the natural resources of the Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest and ensuring the land's ability to contribute to the regional and state economy," said The Conservation Fund's Vice President/Midwest Region Tom Duffus.

"Establishing the Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest is a momentous occasion for Enbridge," said Enbridge Senior Vice President Mark Maki. "As the first Neutral Footprint project in the U.S., it moves Enbridge closer to our goal of conserving an acre of natural habitat for every acre we permanently impact. We are also pleased to establish this multi-use recreational space so close to where our liquids pipelines operations were founded in Superior, Wis., more than 60 years ago."

The McKnight Foundation, Richard King Mellon Foundation and Charles Stewart Mott Foundation provided additional private support to The Conservation Fund for this project.

Deb Ryun, executive director of the St. Croix River Association stated: "The Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest easement project is crucial to protecting the headwaters of the St. Croix River, one of the original eight wild and scenic rivers in the nation and a premier national park in the Midwest. And to have reached an agreement as a working forest is brilliant; good for the environment and cost efficient."



Register now for workshop to attract songbirds to your land

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Session aims to enhance Great Lakes habitat for migratory birds

Registration is underway for a one-day fall workshop aimed at helping property owners along Wisconsin's Great Lakes coasts use native plants to attract and sustain migratory songbirds moving through the region.

The workshop, "2012 Grosbeaks Galore," is set for Saturday, October 13, in Port Washington and is sponsored by the [Wisconsin Stopover Initiative](#), a partnership among state, federal and local agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals to protect, conserve

and enhance habitat for migratory birds.



Learn how to welcome the migrating Red-breasted Grosbeak to your yard. DNR Photo

Migratory birds, including both game and non-game species, regularly move between summer breeding grounds and non-breeding wintering areas. During migration, they must stop to feed and rest at what are known as stopover sites, the bird equivalent of overnight stays at motels. Migratory birds, many weighing less than half an ounce, travel hundreds to thousands of miles between breeding and wintering areas and, with few exceptions, must use several stopover sites along the way.

The morning session and lunch will take place at the [Country Inn and Suites](#), 350 E. Seven Hills Road, Port Washington. A block of reserved rooms at the hotel is available at a discounted price of \$89/night, double occupancy.

Afternoon field tours will be held at [Forest Beach Migratory Preserve](#) just north of Port Washington, in Ozaukee County.

“This is a great opportunity to learn how to help save our songbirds and to bring more of them and other wildlife to your own backyard,” said **Kim Grveles**, DNR ornithologist and coordinator of the Wisconsin Stopover Initiative. “Please register soon, as available space is filling up fast.”

To register, email [Kim Grveles](#) or call her at 608-264-8594.

The event is \$15 and includes lunch and break, renowned speakers, indoor and outdoor activities, and door prizes, Grveles said.

More details on “2012 Grosbeaks Galore”workshop

Speakers at the workshop will include:

- **Bill Volkert**, who recently retired after 27 years as the DNR naturalist at Horicon Marsh;

- Kim Grveles, Bill Mueller and Scott Diehl of the Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory and Wisconsin Humane Society, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center;
- Vicki Piaskowski, formerly of Birds Beyond Borders, Zoological Society of Milwaukee;
- Dr. Noel Cutright, legendary Wisconsin ornithologist with the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory

In addition to these speakers, there will be:

- activities both indoors and outdoors;
- native plant vendors and restoration consultants;
- displays and presentations on the Bird City Wisconsin program;
- invasive plants and how to deal with them;
- insects on which migratory birds depend;
- and, guided walks around Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, which is under development specifically for migratory songbirds.

“Come look at the preserve, learn what we are doing, and how you can attract many more bird species to your land or yard and provide habitat for them!,” said Grveles.



Dave Redell receives Fish and Wildlife Service’s Silver Eagle Award

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On August 28, two representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) came to Madison from Indiana and Washington D.C. to personally deliver the agency’s Silver Eagle Award to DNR Conservation Biologist **Dave Redell**, from the Bureau of Endangered Resources. In receiving this award for the Midwest Region, he was recognized “...for contributions and excellence in natural resource management.”

In a [letter](#) of support for Redell’s nomination, Division of Land Administrator **Kurt Thiede** wrote that his commitment to bat conservation extended beyond Wisconsin.

“David has been an active voice and presence in national research and decision-making groups regarding bat conservation and WNS (white nose syndrome).”



Dave Redell was reunited with Congo, a straw-colored fruit bat from Africa, who is a part of the Michigan Organization of Bat Conservation's traveling bat show. The two had originally met seven years earlier at an annual North American Bat Meeting. DNR Photo

Region 3 of the USFWS developed the Silver Eagle Award in 1970 to recognize those outside this federal agency who have made exceptional contributions to environmental and natural resource issues over time. The award is the region's most prestigious.

Upon listing many of Redell's accomplishments on behalf of bat conservation in Wisconsin, Richard Geboy, USFWS Region 3 White-nose Syndrome coordinator also enumerated his contributions outside of the state, in a [letter](#) justifying the award.

"In addition to the outstanding accomplishments at a state level, Dave managed to contribute in additional ways at the national and regional levels for bat conservation and management. His accomplishments, many of which may not easily be seen, will forever be valued for the favorable impact on natural resources and environmental precedence."

Fellow Conservation Biologist **Paul White** recounted the trip Redell and Fish and Wildlife Services representatives took to Neda Mine near Horicon on the evening of August 28. Redell had conducted work on his master's degree at this bat hibernaculum, and White referred to the trip as "...a homecoming of sorts..." adding that "it was an honor to be there in his presence once again."

"The bats are nearing peak swarming activity and luckily Neda never disappoints, with thousands to tens of thousands of bats swarming within inches of your face as they feed to fatten up for the winter and breed," said White. "The USFWS folks said the experience was unlike anything they had experienced before and no doubt will never experience again due to WNS killing over 6.7 million bats in the east."

Collaboration was key to Redell's work to sustain a healthy population of bats, whether in Wisconsin or across the nation. In concluding his recommendation, Thiede described his partnerships with those at state and federal levels, as well as academic and conservation

organizations "...to further knowledge of bat ecology and conservation."

Wealth of information available on Wisconsin's work on behalf of bats

Read about DNR's bat conservation work in the ["Going to bat...for bats"](#) story in the August 2010 Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine. To get information about the Great Lakes Bat Festival on September 29, go to the ["Wisconsin Bat Monitoring Program"](#) website.



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success story

- In response to a thank-you message from **William (Bill) J. Vander Zouwen Jr.**, chief, Wildlife Ecology Section, Bureau of Wildlife Management, he received the following regarding his work with the [Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Region Joint Venture \(UMRGLR JV\)](#)

"Our pleasure, Bill. Wisconsin has been a great partner and leader for as long as I have been involved with the JV (1998). You and the other Wisconsin DNR wildlife staff I have worked with are truly the best of the best in bird conservation planning and implementation in the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region. Please forward this note to **Tom Hauge** (director, Bureau of Wildlife Management), and also let him know I will send you both photos from the field trip, Lambeau Field meeting location, and salmon fishing Monday night.

"Thank you again for the administrative skills you provided during the past two years as JV Management Board Chair, and for your continued support for improving the scientific approach to bird habitat conservation in our region." *Gregory J. Soulliere, science coordinator, Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

- "**Paul (Heinen)**, Office of the Secretary): "Of course we expected it--all those wonderful comments received about your tour! Wish I could have been there.

"We're hoping you might be available one of these days to talk about a couple of follow-up things we're doing. Thanks Paul." **Richard Wedepohl**, former DNR employee and member of Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

"I have to agree--thanks Paul! You did a fantastic job of leading the WWOA group on Friday. The talk on how to lobby legislators was very informative and well received, and everyone enjoyed your tour of the Capitol. Thanks again! Regards, *Holly*" (*Schnitzler*) Arington Tree Farm, Cambridge)

- **Rick Bucklew** (Division of Forestry retiree) and **Gary Bibow** (Forestry law enforcement specialist) gave a presentation to the new hire class on Forestry Law Enforcement Orientation. They taught segments on forest tax law, timber theft, fire law enforcement, and northern state forest law enforcement, spending most of the time teaching Situational Awareness and following up by having some of the class go through a few classroom scenarios. Class member **Rachel Peterson** (forester, Hayward) commented: "Thank you for teaching the LE orientation course. It

was good to have the information about timber theft again as the first time I didn't have enough experience to really apply the information. I really enjoyed the situational awareness information and role playing. Most of the people I've talked to about it said they wish we could have done more of that to have a chance to visualize the potential issues we may face and how to recognize and adapt to changing situations. I know it is difficult to organize and prepare for any type of training, and I think LE is a bit more so as you get some pretty specific questions and examples to analyze during the training. Thank you for taking the time away from your duties to help educate us with tools that we can use daily. It also helps to understand what rangers, credentialed and not, have to address on a regular basis."

- "Hello **Robert (Manwell)**, then acting section chief in the Office of Communication regarding [wolf hunt news release](#) issued on August 29): I would like to send you a sincere 'thank you' for getting this information out to the frontline staff so quickly. This will help us to maintain a consistent message from the first call forward. Again, thank you!" **Chris Thielman**, *central operations supervisor, Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services*
- To Web Publisher **Lena Arvola** and Section Chief **JD Smith**, both with the Office of Communication, regarding the new "[Mussels](#)" webpage: "I just want to compliment the work done on this website. This is the most attractive, rich & intuitive layout for a WDNR webpage that I have seen so far. Seeing the contemporary style and professionalism of this site's look and feel provides a great deal of optimism for where we are headed with the web as an agency!" **Lisa Helmuth**, *Bureau of Water Quality*

"Thank you Lisa! A lot of the credit goes to **Lisa Gaumnitz** (Office of Communication public affairs manager) as well. She came up with much of this design - and I agree - it is very attractive, intuitive, and rich with information in a format that is a pleasure for the eyes to peruse. It is always nice to hear such a compliment. Thanks again. Outstanding website." **Web Analyst Jeff Margenau**, *Office of Communication*

Northwest Region success story

A visitor to Amnicon Falls State Park sent in a comment card: "Office staff **Bobbi Jo** was very professional and polite. Hard to get (a) combination like that. Thanks!"

South Central Region success story

Wyalusing State Park: "The people in the registration office are the friendliest people we have ever met at a state park. **Bev (Pozega)**, **Donna (Peterson)**, Larry (**Rose**) are a great asset to the park. They go beyond and above (in) their duties. We have been at a lot of Wisconsin state parks through the years and this is the best."



Worth 1,000 words...images of us at work

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Partners dig in on behalf of Hank Aaron State Trail addition



Former major league baseball player Hank Aaron joined DNR Trail Manager Melissa Cook at the August 30 groundbreaking ceremony for the Valley Passage portion of the trail. DNR Photo

Wink Hastings, landscape architect for the National Park Service commented to DNR Landscape Architect **Therese Gripentrog** (Southeast Region) on a recently-released study of waterfront development from the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties. Hastings and Gripentrog conducted the feasibility study that created the [Hank Aaron State Trail](#) along the Menomonee River.

“Thanks for sending the study announcement. I look forward to reading it. It is especially wonderful to see how the Menomonee River and Hank Aaron Trail have progressed over the years. A truly marvelous project for a city that is even better!”

The new Valley Passage will connect the Hank Aaron State Trail in the Menomonee Valley to the Milwaukee Domes. The addition is a large undertaking of multiple federal, state, local and non-profit partners.



Department of Justice hosting public records/open meetings laws seminars

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Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen invites the public and government officials to “save the date” to attend upcoming [Department of Justice](#) seminars on the public records and open meetings laws.

Department of Justice staff recommends that anyone interested in this free, three-hour seminar with assistant attorneys general register early because space will be limited.

The live programs will be held October 4 at Carroll University in Waukesha, and October 15 at the Fitchburg Public Library in Fitchburg; a webinar is scheduled for October 17.

For more information and to register for the live programs connect to the webinar, go to the Department of Justice's ["Division of Legal Services"](#) webpage.



Prepare today for natural disasters that can occur tomorrow

By: Wisconsin Emergency Management news release

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For many, Labor Day weekend is when families gather together for one last summer celebration. Unfortunately those living along the gulf coast were mopping up from hurricane Isaac, rather than closing out the season. The rain we got as a result of the hurricane was nothing in comparison, but "ReadyWisconsin" hopes that everyone took just a few minutes to talk about preparing for emergencies that can occur in our state.

September is "National Preparedness Month." Think about this... what if you knew that today was the day before a disaster? What would you do? How would you get ready?

Preparing for emergency events like tornadoes, flooding and winter storms requires individuals and families to be self-reliant and ready to face days without utilities such as electricity, water and phone service, access to local businesses such as gas stations and supermarkets, and other needed services. Preparing can start with three important steps:

- Get an emergency supply kit
- Make a plan for what to do in an emergency
- Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify sources of information in your community that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency.

The ["ReadyWisconsin"](#) website has more information on how to make an emergency supply kit on a budget; tips for creating your own emergency plan; and commonly asked questions and answers about preparedness. Check it out before you're caught by surprise!



Woodland owners honor retired forestry educator Genny Fannucchi

By: Janet Hutchens, Office of Communication

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On Saturday, August 25, I had the honor of presenting **Genny Fannucchi**, former DNR forest resource education and awareness specialist, with the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) "Next Generation Award" at the association's annual meeting.



Janet Hutchens (left) presented Genny Fannucchi the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association "Next Generation Award." DNR Photo

In my presentation, I recognized Genny Fannucchi for her years of dedication to Arbor Day and educating children in Wisconsin about trees, forestry and forest ecosystems. She was a wonderful advocate for youth education during her time at the DNR.

During her career in the Division of Forestry Genny headed up the Forest Appreciation Week writing contest for fourth graders and their teachers. Each year, she worked with the fourth grade free seedling program, Project Learning Tree, EEK!, LEAF and other department staff to develop an activity booklet that would be fun and educational for students as they pondered the annual theme and their writing project.

Genny worked hard to fairly judge and select winners, then join the writing with artwork from the annual Arbor Day poster contest and create a beautiful calendar that was sent across the state to libraries and schools.

Genny's dedication to youth education resulted in many successful Arbor Day celebrations at the state capitol recognizing contest winners, and their teachers. She organized the planting of eight different trees on the capitol grounds with a grand celebration of children, music and dignitaries to go with each planting.

Among her many accomplishments, Genny also sat on the advisory committee for Wisconsin Project Learning Tree; was a member of DNR's Forest Education Team; served as project director for the School Forest Survey in 2001; sat on the LEAF advisory committee; reviewed forestry grants for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board; and was coordinator for the "Into the Outdoors" children's TV series for the Division of Forestry.

Footnote: Janet Hutchens is DNR's Project WILD, WET and Learning Tree coordinator. This story is adapted from her nomination and presentation before the WWOA.



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Title & link:** ["C.O.P.S. Camp & Wardens: A week for kids in search of peace"](#)

Description: Published on August 29, "Wardens in Action" is a feature of ["Warden Wire,"](#) "...an intelligence information service from your Wisconsin conservation law enforcement team working the outdoor beat." This particular story delves into the raw emotions of families coming together at the annual Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) Camp to help

children work through the grief of losing a parent who was a law enforcement officer. DNR conservation wardens elect to participate in this annual gathering and are featured in this story.

- **Title & link:** [“Bureau of Law Enforcement Hunter Recruitment and Retention and Shooting Sports Programs FY2012 Annual Report”](#)

Description: Read about the "programmatic and planning actions to encourage participation in hunting and the shooting sports" found in this annual report.

- **Title & link:** [“Wisconsin Homeland Security Strategy established”](#)

Description: On August 24, Governor Scott Walker approved the updated Wisconsin Homeland Security Strategy, which is a collaborative interagency effort to guide Wisconsin's emergency response and recovery efforts to major disasters and emergencies.

- **Title & link:** [“State reports first human West Nile Virus case this year”](#)

Description: On August 21, the Wisconsin State Department of Health Services issued this news release because of the increased number of dead birds found to have West Nile Virus. Dodge County was the site of the first confirmed case of the virus in a person, who was treated and released. This brings to 21 the number of birds found infected, in a total of 13 counties.

- **Title & link:** [“New statewide association formed with focus on responsible sand mining in Wisconsin”](#)

Description: Because of the growing business of sand mining in the state, four mining companies operating in Wisconsin announced formation of the Wisconsin Industrial Sand Association, creating a code of conduct for members to follow.

- **Title & link:** [“Conservation Congress applauds suspension of October antlerless hunt”](#)

Description: The Conservation Congress recently supported Gov. Scott Walker's announcement that the October antlerless hunt in the CWD zone would be suspended, saying that extended seasons "...undermined the traditional season structure."

- **Title & link:** [“EPA Announces 2012 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants to Make Beaches Safer in Michigan and Wisconsin”](#)

Description: On October 28, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded two grants totaling \$1 million to UW-Oshkosh to redesign eight Wisconsin beaches to reduce bacteria levels.

- **Title & link:** [“Key factors in shaping Wisconsin Conservation Department's history”](#)

Description: Former DNR employees **Dave Gjestson** and **Bruce Braun** compiled a chronology of events that shaped the Wisconsin Conservation Department between the 1800s and the 1970s, with a summary of key events since then. During that time "DNR (was) created, July 1, 1968, out of recognition for the need to coordinate resource

management and environmental functions.”

- **Title & link:** [“ETF Announces 2013 Health Insurance Plans and Rates”](#)

Description: The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) administers the health insurance plans for employees and annuitants covered under the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Programs and recently announced plans and rates for 2013. The “It’s Your Choice Open Enrollment” period will run from October 8 through November 2, 2012.



Produced by: Department of Natural Resources, Office of Communication

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